

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-6 and 18 were amended, and claims 2, 3, and 17 were cancelled. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-6, 9-14 and 17-19 contain allowable subject matter.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1, 8, 9, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application 2002-009477 to Kiyotaka (hereinafter "Kiyotaka"). Claims 2, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kiyotaka. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as follows.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, along with any intervening base claims upon which claim 3 depends (as well as to correct a minor antecedent basis problem in that claim). Claim 16 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Claims 6 and 18 have been placed in independent form, with all of the limitations of base claims 1 and 16 respectively, along with any intervening base claims upon which claims 6 and 18 might depend. Thus, the outstanding rejections pertaining to claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15 and 16 are now moot.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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